

Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

4 December 2006

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin: November 30, 2006

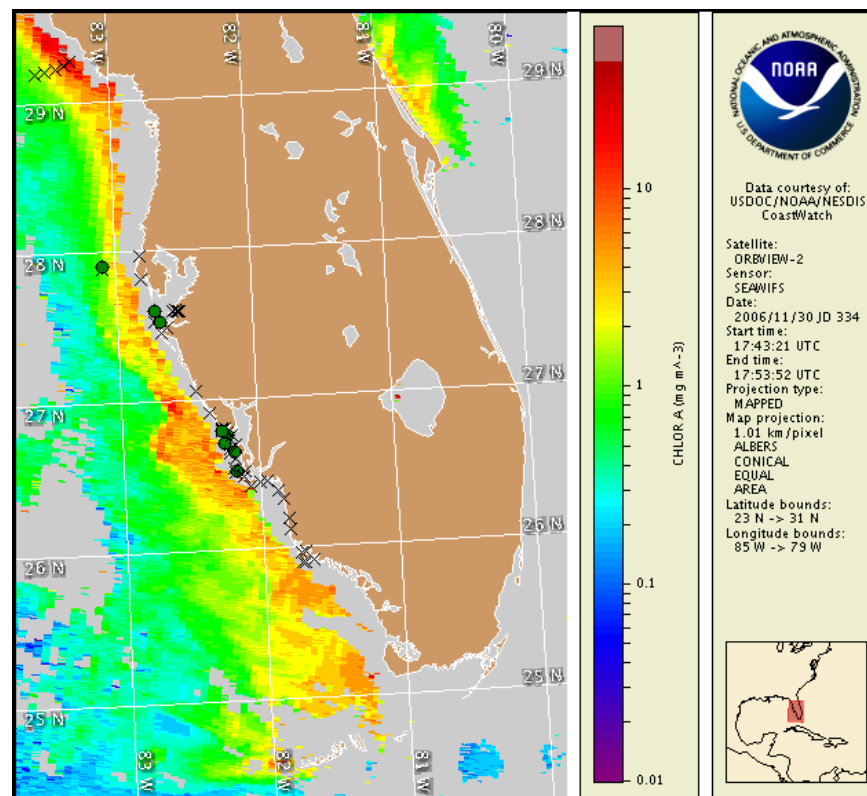
Conditions Report

A harmful algal bloom has been identified from southern Pinellas to Lee Counties. Very low impacts are possible today through Thursday in northern Sarasota County. No impacts are expected today through Thursday in any other Florida Counties.

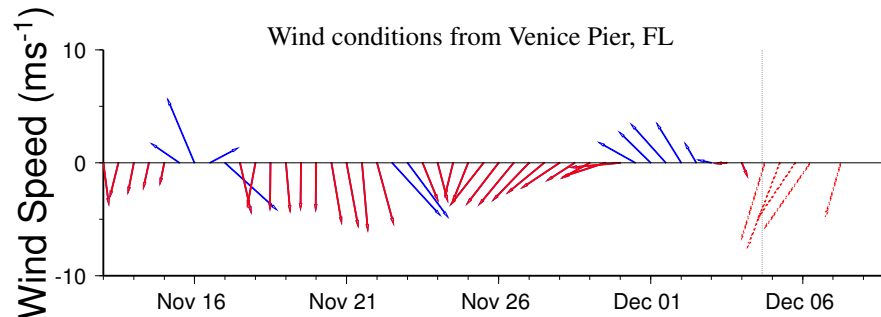
Analysis

The harmful algal bloom in southwest Florida appears to be weakening. Samples collected last week contained mainly "not present" concentrations of *Karenia brevis*; however very low concentrations were detected at Skyway Pier, Gasparilla Sound, and Captiva Pass, and low concentrations were found at New Pass. Recent imagery has been obscured by clouds. An elevated chlorophyll feature extends from west of southern Sarasota County to west of Captiva Island, according to imagery from 11/30. Within this feature a chlorophyll concentration greater than $16 \mu\text{g/L}$ is at $26^{\circ}58'N$ $82^{\circ}38'W$, west of Englewood. Sampling is recommended. A wind transport model indicates that the bloom may have transported up to 25 km southward over the last five days. Weak southward transport is possible through Thursday.

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Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration categories and corresponding cell count values from Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute. For a key to the cell concentration descriptions, visit <http://research.myfwc.com>. Cell concentration sampling data from November 24-30 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).

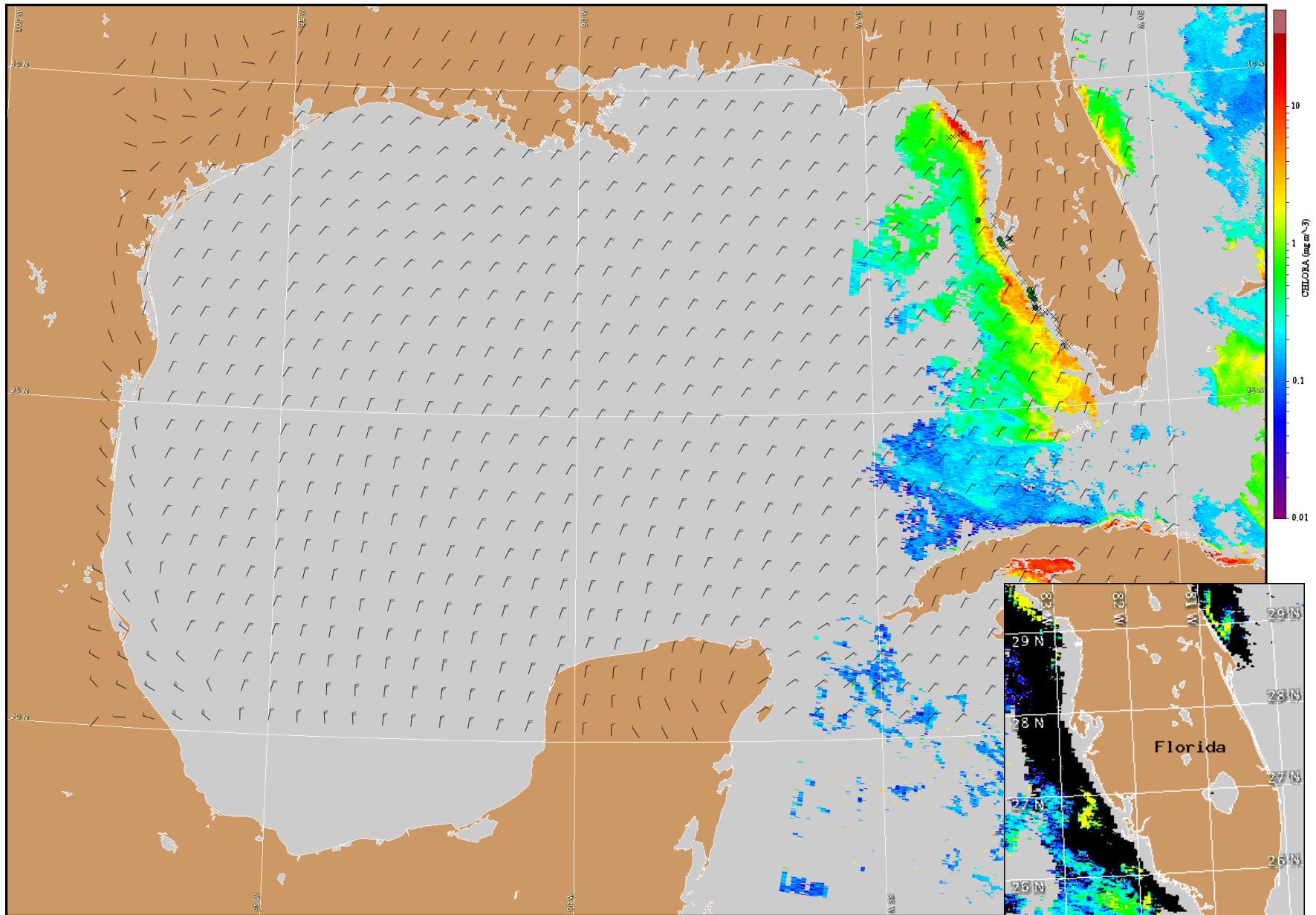


Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

SW Florida: Winds will be north (20 kts, 10 m/s) today, northeast (15 kts, 8 m/s) tomorrow, northeast (10 kts, 5 m/s) Wednesday, and north (15 kts, 8 m/s) Thursday.

Please note the following restrictions on all SeaWiFS imagery derived from CoastWatch.

1. Data are restricted to civil marine applications only; i.e. federal, state, and local government use/distribution is permitted.
2. Image products may be published in newspapers. Any other publishing arrangements must receive GeoEye approval via the CoastWatch Program.



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for December 5, 2006 12Z with cell concentration sampling data from November 24-30 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).

Verified HAB areas shown in red. Other bloom areas shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).